

Handwritten: "Newcombe" and "MSD R" circled.

Jonathan Shane Newcombe  
2300 Carwile Springs Road  
Randolph, Virginia 23962

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4/26/99

President Clinton  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Clinton:

I am a freshmen at Hampden-Sydney College, a historic, all-male, private college located in Virginia. In studying Environmental Rhetoric, I was able to learn more about genetic engineering and its benefits to America.

As a supporter of genetic engineering, I would like to recommend legislation and regulations that would help protect genetic corporations. Through existing legislation, the government is already protecting patents that companies place on products. I would like see further regulations that would ensure the existence of patents, and the endorsement of existing patents.

Agricultural genetic engineering (agro-engineering) is beneficial to the consumer by allowing the creation of a product that can survive the threats of Mother Nature. Agro-engineering also allows food products to be created in a healthy manner. Vitamins, proteins, and other vital nutrients can be added, which improves the nutritional value. With the production of a "perfect plant", consumers are able to reap from its benefits. Genetic companies are now under attack from the very people they are trying to help. People are complaining that the genetic companies have too much of a control over their products. A prime example of this is Monsanto's potato. Monsanto is a world leader in genetic engineering. Monsanto created a potato: to live longer, survive the threats of Mother Nature, and provide nutrients to the consumer. With all the benefits, one is able to see why Monsanto would patent its products. In the patent, purchasers of the potato are forbidden to re-plant the second generation of the potato. Potatoes are plants that generate their own offspring, which can be removed and re-planted for another crop. I personally support Monsanto in its desire to protect its investment. It is a small price to pay for the benefits of a "perfect plant". People need to realize that we are moving into a new age, where more items are going to be the product of genetic engineering.

I feel that through proper legislation and regulation, we can protect product patents that were set up by genetic companies. We can protect companies like Monsanto from the threat of consumers, who want to exploit a beneficial product. We need to educate the public about the benefits of genetic engineering. From that point on, they will be able to see the beauty of genetic engineering. Thus, the pressure of removing the patents will be reduced and both genetic companies and consumers will be able to enjoy the product. American is a free enterprise system, and by making a product Monsanto is able to patent its product. Only through your help and support will the public be educated, and Monsanto will be able to produce beneficial products to America.

Sincerely,

*Jonathan Shane Newcombe*  
Jonathan Shane Newcombe

Handwritten signature/initials.

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HAMPDEN SYDNEY

